

Warner historical movie to begin production soon

WARNER — With script-writing now in progress, a historical documentary movie set in Warner in the late 19th century is moving closer to the beginning of production.

Warner-area residents have spent the past six months poring over hundreds of documents and photographs from the archives of the Warner Historical Society, piecing together a picture of what town life was like nearly 150 years ago and looking for the clues that bring to life the stories of more than two dozen individuals.

The movie project is sponsored by the Warner Historical Society and is being funded in large part by underwriting from local businesses and organizations and donations from individuals.

Rebecca Courser of the historical society is the research director, and George Packard, a local writer and video producer, is the project director. Marcia Schmidt Blaine, assistant professor at Plymouth State University, is serving as the project historian.

Completion of the movie is expected in February or March 2006. The movie will premiere in Warner and will be shown around New Hampshire.

The Warner Historical Society will also produce a DVD for retail sales. The Warner Historical Society has raised more than 75 percent of the \$25,000 budget for the movie.

The society is now beginning a fundraising campaign to raise the remaining costs of the movie by pre-selling DVDs and VHS tapes. Donations of \$20 or more are eligible for a free copy of the movie when it becomes available in the late spring of 2006.

The documentary will focus on a lively generation of Warner residents born in the 1820s and 1830s who had reached midlife in the 1870s and '80s. These were the men and women who stayed in Warner after the Civil War and pushed forward the changes that may have kept the town alive despite a huge drop in population and the decline of the farm economy.

The style of the movie with be similar to that popularized by the Ken Burns films such as "Jazz" and "The Civil War," with the use of original photos and letters, posters and newspapers read by actors off-screen.

However, there will be no on-screen commentary from historians. The narrator of the movie will be an actress who serves as a storyteller and guide, often offering her personal thoughts and wry observations on town affairs. The character played by the actress will be a composite of several Warner women writers of the time.

According to Packard, the script will require more than a dozen readers to perform readings of the various documents, as well as an experienced actress age 40-75. There are also many volunteer positions to be filled for all aspects of the production.

For more information, contact Packard at 456-2286.

In Brief

Keene man wins 8 Ball title

KEENE — D.J. Hopkins of Keene bested 55 other players in a double-elimination competition to win the N.H. State 8 Ball championship and the \$1,000 top prize.

The New England Billiard League-sanctioned tournament was co-sponsored by Keene Mitsubishi and McCue's Billi-

176 Main, Ted's Shoes, WKNE, Monadnock Shopper News & many other local merchants.

Turkey shoot Sept. 18 in Goffstown

The 57th annual Turkey/Chicken Shoot of the Goffstown Fish and Game Association will be held Sunday, Sept. 18 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the association's club grounds in

by calling 271-3214.

The free, pocket-sized book contains detailed information about hunting and trapping seasons in the Granite State, plus bag limits, wildlife management unit boundaries, regulations, check stations and other useful information.

The state's fall hunting seasons include the following:
● White-tailed deer: Archery, Sept. 15 to Dec. 15; youth deer

'The Man'

A cops and robbers film that was a waste of time

★ 1/2

Agent Derrick Vann..... Samuel L. Jackson
Andy Fidler..... Eugene Levy
Agent Peters..... Miguel Ferrer
Joey Trent..... Luke Goss
Booty..... Anthony Mackie
Lt. Rita Cabrone..... Susie Essman
Diaz..... Horatio Sanz

New Line presents a film directed by Les Mayfield. Produced by Robert N. Fried. Written by Jim Piddock, Margaret Oberman and Stephen Carpenter. Photographed by Adam Kane. Edited by Jeffrey Wolf. Music by John Murphy. Running time: 79 minutes. Classified: PG-13 (for language, rude dialogue and some violence).



ROGER EBERT

At the Movies

(and Fidler's problems with intestinal gas) will make it difficult for them to share the front seat of Vann's customized Caddy.

"The Man" is very minor. The running time of 79 minutes indicates (a) thin material, and (b) mercy toward the audience by not stretching it any further than what is already the break-even point. You know a movie like this is stalling for time when it supplies Agent Vann with a family so that his wife can call him in the middle of the action: "Your daughter wants to know if you'll be at her recital tonight." Yes, it's the ancient and sometimes reliable Dad Too Busy for Child's Big Moment formula. Does Vann wrap up the case in time to walk into the room just as the recital is beginning? Do he and his daughter exchange a quiet little nod to show family does, after all, come first? I would not dream of giving away such a plot detail.

Levy has funny moments as the fussy dental supplies fetishist, but never goes into full obnoxious mode as Joe Pesci did in "Lethal Weapon 2." He plays the character like a convention-

The inescapable fact about "The Man" is that this movie is completely unnecessary. Nobody needed to make it, nobody needs to see it, Jackson and Levy are too successful to waste time with it. It plays less like a film than like a deal.

At Telluride over the weekend I was talking to James Mangold, the director of "Walk the Line" and other ambitious pictures, and he said an interesting thing: Hollywood executives are reluctant to green-light a project that depends on the filmmakers being able to pull it off. They want familiar formulas in safe packages. An original movie idea involves faith that the script will work, the director knows what he's doing, and the actors are right for the story. Too risky. Better to make a movie where when you hear the pitch you can already envision the TV commercial, because the movie will essentially be the long form of the 30-second spot.

Go online, look at the trailer for "The Man," and you will know everything you could possibly need to know about this movie except how it would feel if the trailer were 80 minutes long.

Minireview: "The Man" (Action comedy, PG-13, 79 minutes). Samuel L. Jackson plays a hard-boiled Detroit ATF agent, and Eugene Levy is a dental supplies salesman from Wisconsin. After the agent mistakes the salesman for an undercover contact, he needs him in order